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**INTERIOR DECORATION. ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE.** BY FRANK ALVAH PARSONS. President of the New York School of Fine and Applied Art. Doubleday, Page & Co., Publishers. Price \$3.00-net.

This book is a most practical treatise on the subject of interior decoration, giving not merely the theory of design but the true principles of art and practice. Mr. Parsons does not merely tell what is good and what is not good, but gives the reasons for conviction and judgment so that the reader is able to arrive at conclusions himself. He shows that the same principles governing good taste in architecture and painting, and sculpture, are equally applicable to interior decoration, house furnishing and dress. His style, furthermore, is clear. What he has to say he says plainly and without circumlocution. He is positive without being dogmatic. The reader is interested and eager to apply the knowledge gained for himself.

The book falls naturally into three parts: first, Principles of decoration, color, form, balance and movement, emphasis and unity, scale, motives, texture, etc.; second, the historic periods and what they represent; and third, the application to the modern house and individual home.

In the chapter on the Modern House, Mr. Parsons thus refutes the prevalent belief that it is impossible to find good things in the trade. He says:

"Demand always has and always will govern the supply; the supply will be furnished when there is a demand, and the trade has in stock exactly what people want. When people demand better things, manufacturers will make them and tradesmen will sell them. It is the public taste that is at fault, and not the trade.

"After twelve years of intimate acquaintance with every branch of allied interior decorating trades in the largest city in America, I am convinced that one thing is true: that there is no one class of persons in this country more anxious to learn, more ready to respond or more loyal in their efforts for better things than the trade. This statement applies to wholesale and retail men, to those managing the textile shops, wall-paper shops and furniture shops. It is a very general and clearly defined feeling. When the consumer raises his

standard of what is good the producer will raise his, and the middleman will respond naturally and quickly."

This is unusual and encouraging testimony.

The volume is illustrated quite abundantly by photographs of actual rooms illustrating both what is good and bad in interior decoration. The captions, which have been carefully written, afford no opportunity for confusion or doubt as to the reason why each picture is set forth.

**PARIS, PAST AND PRESENT.** Special Number of the International Studio, edited by Charles Holmes. Text by E. A. Taylor. John Lane, New York and London, Publishers. Price \$3.00 net.

This is one of the most interesting "special numbers" issued by the International Studio. The frontispiece is a bird's-eye view of Paris, and this is followed by 200 pages chiefly of pictorial material of the City on the Seine, so full of romance, historical association and art. The illustrations are divided in four groups—The River, Bridges and Quays; Churches; The Old Streets, Houses and Markets; and Public Buildings, Monuments and Gardens. Four or five pages of text precede each section. Among the artists whose pictures of Paris are reproduced here are B  t, Meryon, Lep  re, Gautier, Flameng and Latour, Cameron, Brangwyn and Armington, Gleeson, Hornby, Webster, Trowbridge and Plowman—but there is not a single Whistler! It is interesting to note to what extent our contemporary American etchers' works have been drawn upon.

#### CATALOGUES ISSUED BY THE HISPANIC SOCIETY.

The Hispanic Society of America has recently issued most attractive illustrated catalogues of the Spanish majolica, porcelains and terra-cottas, Mexican majolica and Hispano-Moresque pottery in its permanent collections. These have been prepared by Dr. Edwin Atlee Barber, director of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art at Philadelphia, and each is prefaced by a delightfully written and informing essay on the subject. They are exceedingly valuable little volumes.